

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5420

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSLAEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 5661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, JO

SUBJ: JORDAN-PLO RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 10265

1. GOJ ISSUED SPECIAL STATEMENT 13 AUGUST CLARIFYING REFUTING REPORTS EMANATING FROM 7 AUGUST INTERVIEW WITH U.S. NEWSMEN (TEXT UNAVAILABLE LOCALLY) THAT KING HUSSEIN SAID HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT ALLOW PLO TO RETURN TO JORDAN (PARA 7 REFTEL) AND THAT THE JORDAN/PLO ISSUE IS POTENTIAL IRRITANT IN HIS RELATIONS WITH ASAD AND SADAT. OJ STATEMENT CLAIMED HUSSEIN IN FACT SAID GOJ-PLO RELATIONS ARE "NORMAL AND NATURAL", ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING RABAT CONFERENCE WHICH "REMOVED ALL CAUSES OF DIFFERENCE WITH PLO." THUS, STATEMENT CONTINUED, GOJ PREPARED TO ENTER "CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH PLO" IN CONTEXT OF JORDAN'S POSITION AS CLOSEST PARTY TO PALESTINE PROBLEM AND COUNTRY MOST CONCERNED ABOUT IT. STATEMENT DENIED HUSSEIN LINKED JORDAN-PLO RELATIONS
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IN ANY WAY TO HIS RELATIONS WITH ASAD AND SADAT, MAIN-

TAINING THAT JORDAN'S "RELATIONS WITH THE PLO ARE DIRECT RELATIONS AND NO OTHER THIRD PARTY HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH THOSE RELATIONS."

2. COMMENT: FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA -- ESPECIALLY FROM PLO SOURCES IN BEIRUT -- MANY TIMES BEFORE HAVE CLAIMED GOJ HOSTILITY TO PLO WITHOUT GOJ RESPONDING. THIS TIME, THOUGH, ALLEGATIONS APPEARING IN RESPECTED AND WIDELY READ WESTERN PRESS, ATTRIBUTE REMARKS DIRECTLY TO KING HUSSEIN, AND DO SO AT TIME WHEN KING ON CREST OF WAVE OF RAPPROACHMENT WITH OTHER ARAB LEADERS AND ON EVE OF HIS VISITS TO DAMASCUS AND CAIRO. PUBLIC DENIAL IS CAREFULLY PHRASED TO PROTECT DEVELOPING GOJ-SYRIAN RELATIONS, BUT NOT TO GIVE PLO MUCH SATISFACTION ON THEIR DESIRE TO RETURN TO JORDAN TO CARRY ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OR COMMANDO RAIDS ON ISRAEL. A DIALOGUE WITH PLO WAS, IF NOT EXPLICIT, INHERENT IN RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS, AND WHILE PUBLIC RELATIONS POINT MIGHT INDICATE GREATER JORDANIAN/PLO COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE, OUR VIEW IS THAT POINT IS PURE PUBLIC RELATIONS. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI HAS ALLUDED TO THAT EXPLANATION IN HIS OWN COMMENTS TO US ON THE QUESTION. GOJ STATEMENT ALSO ATTEMPTED DIVORCE JORDAN'S IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND EGYPT FROM PLO QUESTION, WHILE ALLEGING THAT JORDAN AND PLO HAVE RANGE OF ISSUES TO DISCUSS BILATERALLY.
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